

News Briefs

Blood Drive
A blood drive will be held for the BLAZE TEAM at the base Community Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 20. For more information or questions, call Capt. Daryl White at Ext. 2123.

Garbage collection in MFH
Residents should include all garbage, such as unusually large items, when putting trash out for collection to minimize the number of special pickups in military family housing. If any items are not removed during pickup, then residents should call to notify Customer Service at 434-2856.

Anger managment class
Family Advocacy will offer an Anger Management Class in Room 220 at the Life Skills Support Center from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 24. All reservations must be made by Jan. 20. For more information or to make a reservation, call Ext. 2197.

Vehicle inspection stickers
Mississippi vehicle inspection stickers are required for driving in Mississippi. Five-dollar inspections are available at the base auto hobby shop. To locate other inspection stations, it is suggested to contact different auto mechanic shops, car dealers and area tire stores. For more information or questions, questions,call the Motor Vehicle Inspection Office at (601) 987-1251.

Inside



FEATURE 9

BLAZE TEAM members enjoy a “celebrity style” sneak preview of television series.

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE									
PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD	
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required
37th (06-13)	10.95 days	2.90 days	Feb. 9	48th (06-04)	9.00 days	4.63 days	Jan. 20	T-37	849
41st (06-12)	2.57 days	0.74 days	Jan. 13	50th (06-04)	5.76 days	1.45 days	Jan. 20	T-38C	374
								T-1A	388
								Flown	800
								Annual	8263
									387
									381
									3551
									3532

Graduation speaker: Col. Dale Shoupe, Air War College vice-commandant

Ready, aim, fire!



Airman Alyssa Wallace

Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, takes aim at the “bulls-eye” during the grand opening of the new base paintball course Saturday. More than 20 people attended the grand opening and played four games free of charge. For more information on the base paintball course, see page 11.

New budget increases military pay

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1. It includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6. In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector. The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said. “Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays,” he said. Among the law's most significant features are: — Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all

See **PAY**, Page 2

Soccer superstars



Senior Airman John Parie

Soccer players ages 3 and 4 take a break from a soccer clinic at the Youth Center. Clinics will be held at the Youth Center at 5 p.m. Mondays now through February. Youth outdoor soccer registration will begin in February. Coaches will be needed. For more information, call Lisa Quintero at Ext. 2504.

Local baseball camp


The Kent Willis 3rd Annual Straight Path Braves Baseball Camp presented by Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority will be held at Propst Park Saturday and Sunday. The camp will include teaching, developing and directing the proper fundamentals needed to execute sound baseball skills. The camp will be instructed by major players from the Atlanta Braves and former players from other major league baseball teams, who are still active the sport today. The players in attendance will be Kent Willis, Minor League Pitching Coach; Franklin Stubbs, Minor League Hitting Coordinator; Kyle Davis, Pitcher; Jerome Walton, 1989 National League Rookie of the Year; Bill Fischer, Pitching Coordinator for the Minor League; Mo Sanford, a former Chicago Cubs outfielder; Ted Williams, professional scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates; and Mike Rosamond, first baseman for the Braves. The Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as the Columbus Lowndes Recreation Authority will host an autograph session with the players today from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The autograph session will be held at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center locate at 300 Main St. in Columbus. For more information, call Mandy Wells at 329-1191.

Columbus AFB Group Fitness Schedule			
Monday:	Tuesday and Thursday:		
Strollercize: 9 a.m.	Strength and tone: noon		
Spin: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.	Pre/post natal pilates: 5 p.m.		
Pilates: 5 p.m.	Cardio Kick Boxing: 6 p.m.		
Wednesday:	Friday:		
Strollercize: 9 a.m.	Fit Circuit: 11 a.m.m		
Spin: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.			
Step: noon	For more information,		
Fit Circuit: 6 p.m.	call Ext. 2772.		

Airman saves career with yoga, shares success with troops

Staff Sgt. Kevin Nichols
U.S. Central Command Air Forces News Team

BALAD AB, Iraq — If a picture can say a thousand words, Staff Sgt. Bonnie McKinley's picture of herself would tell you of a time when she, at 5-foot-4-inches and 25 years old, weighed 215 pounds, putting her at risk of a heart attack or stroke. Not to mention, her Air Force career was in jeopardy. She did something about it. She signed up for yoga. When the Air Force mandated that she increase her exercise routine, she decided to try yoga because it had always interested her. “I fell in love with it from the beginning,” said Sergeant McKinley, a respiratory therapist at the Air Force Theater Hospital here. Now 75 pounds lighter, she helps patients in the intensive care unit breathe a little easier. She loved yoga so much that she stuck with it and received a teaching license. Now, in a little room outside the hospital, she teaches medics and others here willing to give yoga a try. “[Before the room was here] we'd get together and talk about exercising — how difficult it was to get to sometimes after work,” said Sergeant McKinley who is deployed from Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Sergeant McKinley decided to multipurpose a tent used for watching movies. She sent out an e-mail to see if anyone was interested in learning yoga and got a great response. Her “fat picture,” as she calls it, has become a centerpiece of her life now. It is a constant reminder



Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Staff Sgt. Joseph Jalkennen and Army Capt. Amy Hadsall practice one of several challenging yoga postures during a class held at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad AB, Iraq.

of what she has lost and what she has gained. “Have you seen my fat picture?” she asks co-workers. “I never want to be that unhealthy again.” Not only has she lost the weight, but she can now run six miles and teach an hour of yoga afterward.

2nd Brunswick Stew fundraiser: This fundraiser will be held at Propst Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The money raised will be used to support the Contactt Helpline, a non-profit organizations available to help anyone in their time of need. The menu includes Brunswick stew at \$7 per quart, pulled pork at \$7 per pound, and stew plates and pork plates at \$7 per plate. Orders must be in no later than today. Checks or money orders may be turned in to Etha Brooks in the Wing Headquarters building. For more information contact Ms. Brooks at Ext. 7030.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute: Natchez, Miss., will pay tribute to Marin Luther King Jr. with a parade through the streets of its downtown Thursday. For more information, call (601) 445-5957.

Life long learning: A program with information on planning a safe nest egg and smart financial moves is at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

Concert: The Mississippi Symphony will have a concert at Mississippi University for Women at 7 p.m. Jan. 28.

Double Exposure Exhibit: A free exhibit of award-win-

ning photography from Alabama will be presented by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County in the Bama Theatre's Junior League Gallery Jan. 22 to Feb. 24 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. For more information, call (205) 758-5195.

Circus: The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will be in Birmingham Ala., from Jan. 25 to Jan. 29. For more information, call (205) 458-8401.

Spirit of Women Getaway: The North Mississippi Medical Center's Second Spirit of Women Getaway is at the BancorpSouth Center in Tupelo, Miss., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 28. Activities include a cooking demonstration by Southern Living, as well as health education, speciality shopping, free manicures, a fashion show, massages and makeovers. For more information, call (662) 377-4099 or (800) 843-3375.

Science Fair: Hunt Intermediate School's science fair will be held on Jan. 31 in the school's gymnasium. Call 241-7160.

Daily historic home tours: The public is invited to drop by or call the Mississippi Welcome Center or Columbus

Historic Foundation for schedules of historic homes open for tours. For admission or more information, call (800) 920-3533.

Community Volunteer Center: People in search of volunteer opportunities can contact the Community Volunteer Center at 327-0807, or visit the office at 501 Seventh St. North, Suite 4, in the Plaza Building.

Computer classes: Lowndes County School District offers free computer classes to adults of all ages, after-school tutoring and drug awareness workshops. For more information, call 329-7509.

Exchange Club: The Exchange Club of Columbus meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The organization is a community service group dedicated to programs and projects that aid in the prevention of child abuse. For more information, e-mail exchangeclubofcolumbus@yahoo.com

For more event listings, visit www.columbusms.org, or www.tupelo.net.

PAY

(Continued from Page 1)

deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased servicemembers;

— An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to 90,000;

— A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;

— A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;

— A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;

— A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for servicemembers who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;

— An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for servicemembers who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;

— A bonus of up to \$12,000 per year for both active and reserve members with certified language proficiency;

— Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized servicemembers wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

— Full housing allowance payments for reserve members

called to active duty for more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;

— Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law;

— A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and

— Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee that all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady progress in compensating servicemembers and their families with increased benefits and opportunities, he said.

"Every year for the past several years, our servicemembers have gotten larger pay, increased benefits and increased special incentive pays. This is a clear reflection of our Congress, our administration and our country wanting to take care of our servicemembers and their families," he said.

"The members of our uniformed services should feel very good about this year's defense bill as a follow-on to those from past few years," he said.

More information about pay and benefits is posted on DOD's military compensation Web site at www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/.

New tax law changes may benefit victims of 2005's hurricane damage

Marti Myers-Garver
14th Flying Training Wing

People affected by recent hurricanes have something to look forward to this tax season. The Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 expands the provisions of the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 to those affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, as well as Katrina.

These laws combine to provide tax breaks to help individuals who suffered losses as a result of a hurricane and to make it easier for individuals and companies to engage in charity to benefit those affected by the hurricanes.

In total, five states -- Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas -- are affected. For individuals affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, the new laws generally:

* Allow for tax-favored distributions and loans from retirement accounts.

* Eliminate limitations on claiming losses as a result of a hurricane.

* Permit certain earned income tax credit and refundable tax credit recipients to chose either 2005 or 2004 to determine earned income.

* Allow affected individuals to exclude from income certain cancellations of debt

* Provide educational assistance by expanding the Hope and Lifetime Learning credits for students enrolled and paying tuition at eligible institutions.

* Create a recent change to the tax law, removing certain loss limitations for taxpayers who suffered casualty or theft losses to property owned for personal use which are attributable to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

* Encourage charity by suspending the limits on certain charitable contributions, creating an exemption for those housing Hurricane Katrina displaced individuals, increasing the standard mileage rate for charitable

use of vehicles and excluding from gross income mileage reimbursements to charitable volunteers.

* Provide an additional exemption of \$500 in taxable years 2005 and 2006 for each Hurricane Katrina displaced individual claimed by the taxpayer, subject to certain limitations.

* Increase the standard mileage rate for charitable use of vehicles

Anyone visiting the Columbus Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center to have their federal and state returns prepared for free must inform a volunteer that they believe that one of these new changes may be beneficial. Tax center office hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays; and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Walk-in and drop off returns are always accepted.

For more information or to make an appointment, e-mail the tax center office at Appointments@ColumbusVITA.com or call Ext. 7613.

SILVER WINGS

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
555 Seventh St. Suite 203
Columbus AFB, MS 39710
Commercial: 662-434-7068
DSN: 742-7068
Fax: 662-434-7009
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing
Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson
Public Affairs Chief

Tech. Sgt. Keith Houin
NCOIC

Airman Alyssa Wallace
Editor

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14th Flying Training Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

Holiday celebration



Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan, 9th Air Force commander, celebrates the holidays in Southwest Asia with Senior Airman Mary Baxter and Staff Sgt. Erreca Weaver, both deployed from the 14th Comptroller Squadron,

Courtesy photo



Capt. Aubrey Sterling
41st Flying Training
Squadron



The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates Capt. Sterling on his recent selection as Doolittle Flight Commander.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 61 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



Health screenings offered to BLAZE all

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
14th Flying Training Wing

The Columbus AFB Health and Wellness Center staff will perform body fat and blood pressure screenings for all military and civilian BLAZE TEAM members and their dependents in recognition of Healthy Weight Week, which is Sunday through Jan. 21.

Screenings will be conducted at the fitness center from 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Jan. 20.

In an effort to reach those members of the community who do not frequent the fitness center, the HAWC will also offer its services at the bowling center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

The screenings will be conducted using an automatic blood pressure machine and bio-electrical impedance body fat tester.

“The electrical impedance body fat tester is a little hand-held machine,” said Ellen Edmonds, HAWC health education program manager. “A person enters information such as height, weight and gender, and holds the machine out while extending both arms. The body fat is determined by the machine’s measurement of the impedance — or opposition — to the flow of an electric current through the body fluids contained mainly in the lean and fat tissue.”

While a “healthy weight” is different for everyone, a person’s waist-to-hip ratio can serve as an indicator of good health.

“People want to make sure their waist measurement is not larger than their hip measurement,” Ms. Edmonds said. “If you are of a healthy weight, your risk for diabetes, hypertension, stroke and heart attack will decrease, which is one great reason to take advantage of the body fat and blood pressure screenings.

“We’re not going to contact any supervisors or record any personal information,” she continued. “This service is for personal use only.”

Informational pamphlets and brochures and door prizes will also be available at the screenings.

For those people who would like help developing a healthier lifestyle, the HAWC offers classes on tobacco cessation, hypertension and diabetes, among others. All BLAZE TEAM members are welcome to call the center for an appointment with the exercise physiologist or nutritionist, who can create exercise programs and eating plans tailored to individual needs. For more information, call the HAWC at Ext. 2477.

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass
Tuesday:
7 p.m. — RCIA

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Adult and children’s
Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -- Contemporary service at the services complex
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship service at the chapel sanctuary
Monday:
7 p.m. — Bible study fellowship
Wednesday:
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study
5 p.m. — Pot luck supper
6 p.m. — Video study
A Case for Kids
Pioneer Clubs

Thursday:
10 a.m. -- Ladies Bible Study
For information, call Ext. 2500.

(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)

WIC

Representatives from Women, Infants & Children visit Columbus AFB twice a month. Active-duty military personnel and family members who are pregnant or have children younger than 5 years old can make appointments to meet with a WIC representative on base to determine eligibility and/or receive vouchers for food supplements. Eligibility is based on income and number of family members. To make an appointment, call Ext. 2790.

AFAS Grant

The Air Force Aid Society just increased the individual award amount under its General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program to \$2,000! The program continues to be offered to dependent sons and daughters of active duty, Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reservists with more than 20

qualifying years of service, and deceased Air Force members. Stateside residing spouses of active duty and Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members are also eligible candidates. For more information or an application, visit the Air Force Aid Society’s web site at www.afas.org.

Relocation assistance

A workshop on programs, services and resources on relating will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 24. Discussions will include preparing for moves, cultural adaptation and community awareness.

Garbage collection

Residents should include all garbage, such as unusually large items, when putting trash out for collection to minimize the number of special pickups in MFH. If any items are not removed during pickup, then residents should call to notify Customer Service at 434-2856.

Sponsorship training

A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is at 9 a.m. Jan. 31. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and government applications is from 1 to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Car care

The Air Force Aid Society’s “Car Care Because We Care” program is available to Airmen enrolled in the First Term Airmen’s Center and spouses of active-duty Air Force members deployed or remote for more than 30 days. Call Ext. 2855.

Personal financial analysis

Individual financial counseling and a financial analysis are available for those planning to make a major financial decision, purchase a home or vehicle, or make a lifestyle change.

Student spouse social

Student spouses -- past, present and future -- are invited to a Brunch and

Base Notes

Recipe Swap at 7201A, Atlanta Dr. at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Traditional brunch food will be provided and guests may bring their favorite breakfast recipe for attendees to sample and swap. Children of the student spouses are welcome. Arts and crafts will be provided. All interested spouses must RSVP by Jan. 13. For more information or questions, and to RSVP, e-mail Allison Adair at allison_adair@yahoo.com or call her at 434-8714.

COSC Scholarship

The Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club is offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students. Each applicant must be a dependent of either an active duty, retired, MIA, active duty reservist, or deceased military member associated with Columbus AFB. Application deadline is Jan. 30th. Applications can be obtained at the Base Education Center, Family Support Center, high school guidance office or by calling Tanya Marrazzo at 352-6574.

Garage sales

On-base garage sales are only permitted the first Saturday of every month. Advertisements for sales are limited to yard signs or ads in the base paper only. Signs must be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Displaying signs on utility poles and street signs is prohibited. Advertising yard sales in the local media, excluding the base newspaper, is

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Hours:

Bowling Center:

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fitness Center:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed:

Auto Crafts
Child Development Center
Columbus Club
Copy Cut-Ups
Arts & Crafts
Enlisted Lounge
Golf Course
HRO Office
Library
Outdoor Rec.
Wood Crafts shop
Youth Center

also prohibited. People may locally advertise individual items for sale, such as automobiles, boats, washers, dryers or refrigerators. Columbus AFB housing areas are located on a federal installation and the civilian public may only enter a military installation on official business, open house functions or social visitations. Yard and carport sales do not fall within these criteria.

Speed dial saves lives

BLAZE TEAM members can reach 14th Flying Training Wing emergency responders by dialing 9-1-1 from any base phone, including those in military family housing. However, 9-1-1 calls from cellular phones will connect to off-base operators. To access wing emergency services from a cell phone, dial 434-8881 or 434-8882. People are encouraged to program this number into their cell phones for ready access.

MPF hours of operation

The military personnel flight is closed every Thursday from noon to 4:30 p.m. Hours of operation are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursday.

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Football Frenzy and conference championship: The club invites all football fans to the enlisted lounge to watch the wild card weekend games Sunday at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. with door prizes, game day snacks and a chance to win a recliner from No Place Like Home.

The divisional playoffs are Sunday, and a Super Bowl party will be held Feb. 5. Two club members will walk away from the Super Bowl party with a voucher for \$275 in National Football League merchandise from www.nfl.com. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Crafts classes: The arts and crafts center's upcoming crafts classes feature seasonal projects. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming classes include a winter block shelf, a best friends door hanging, a chilly charmer snowman for windowsills and a cloth covered heart box.

The youth classes are offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Upcoming classes include a block snowman, a door hanging and an ivy bowl snowman.

A display of all projects is available in the arts and crafts lobby. Participants must register at least four days prior to the class date. For more information, call Ext. 7836.

Tops In Blue: The premiere entertainment showcase of the United States Air Force will perform on Jan. 31 in the Mississippi University for Women's Rent Auditorium. This year's edition of Tops In Blue entitled "...And The Beat Goes On" is an intricate mixture of music, energetic beats and the sounds of the 1940s to the music of today. Through the use of technology, Tops In Blue will present a performance showcasing hits with their own special

spin. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Give parents a break: The youth center and child development center offer this program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 21. All parents who are interested may check with the Family Support Center to see if they qualify for free child care. Register by Jan. 18 at the FSC. For more information, call the youth center at Ext. 2504 or the child development center at Ext. 2441.

Bowling birthday party package: The bowling center offers birthday party packages for Saturdays and Sundays with a reserved seating area, a pitcher of soda for every four children, one 8-inch pizza for every two children, plates, utensils, napkins, an hour of bowling with six children per lane and free shoe rental. Cost is \$10 per child. For more information or reservations, call Ext. 2426.

Auto hobby shop special: The auto hobby shop offers oil change and tire rotation for \$25. Tire balancing may be added for an additional \$15. This special ends Jan. 31. For more inforamtion or an appointment, call Ext. 7842.

Services complex fees: The Services complex will be available for non-official functions for a fee of \$35. This fee is to offset the cost of setting up and cleaning the facility after each use. The Services complex will still be available at no charge for official functions such as commander's calls, promotion ceremonies and official briefings. Examples of non-official functions are birth-

day parties, wedding receptions and potluck luncheons. To reserve the Services complex for official and non-official functions, stop by the youth center to complete a reservation form. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Boss and buddy night: The Columbus Club offers an all-ranks boss and buddy night from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays in the Landing Lounge. A free taco bar is available for club members and nonmembers pay \$2.95. Wings are 25-cents each for club members and 50-cents for nonmembers from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beverage specials are also available. For more information call, Ext. 2490.

Lunch buffets: The Columbus Club offers an all you can eat lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday's menu is a super potato and soup bar with fried catfish. Wednesday's menu features a southern comfort buffet with fried chicken, smoked brisket and cobbler. Thursday is the backyard barbecue, and a bonsai buffet with teriyaki chicken, beef vegetable stir fry, fried rice and egg rolls will be served on and Friday. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes iced tea or lemonade. For more information call, Ext. 2490.

Columbus AFB ads: Free online photo advertisements are now available. Go to www.cafbads.com or Columbus AFB's services Web-site at www.cafbser-vices.com. For more information, call Ext. 2337.

Paintball birthday parties: The paintball field can be reserved for birthday celebrations, grudge matches or organizational play. Cost for groups of 10 or more is \$15 per person. Groups with less than 10 people must pay \$20 per person. Cost includes range fee, marker, mask, body armor, carbon dioxide and 200 paintballs. For more information, call Ext. 2507.

New bowling system: The bowling center has a new scoring system with animation graphics and special bowling games such as lucky draw, tic-tac-toe and much more. For more inormation, call Ext. 2426.

Daily Grind opens Saturdays: Beginning Jan. 17, the fitness center coffee shop, The Daily Grind, will be open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. A free espresso will be given after the purchase of nine espressos. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Champagne Sunday brunch: The Columbus Club breakfast and lunch during its all-you-can-eat brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 29. Cost is \$9.95 for members and \$12.95 for nonmembers; \$5 for members ages 6 to 12; \$7 for children of nonmembers; ages 5 and younger eat free. The menu includes marinated chicken breast, lasagna, baked fish, carved ham, tossed salad with assorted dressings, fruit tray, mashed potatoes and gravy, rice pilaf, rolls, and buffet, green beans almondine, balsamic grilled vegetables, California blend vegetables, omelet and waffle station, crisp bacon, sausage gravy, buttermilk biscuits, assorted homemade desserts and champagne. For more information call Ext. 2490.

View from the Top: Looking back, looking forward

Gen. William R. Looney III
Air Education and Training Command

By any measure, 2005 was a memorable year ... a year marked by unprecedented disasters, excruciating sacrifices, and dramatic aspirations for peace, freedom and dignity.

The world mourned the passing of prominent figures such as Pope John Paul II, Rosa Parks and Simon Wiesenthal. Among the honored American dead in the Global War on Terrorism, we laid to rest one of our own, Airman First Class Elizabeth N. Jacobson.

Reminding us of the need to remain vigilant in the GWOT, in 2005, the forces of violent extremism struck again — in London and then in Jordan. In addition to this man-made scourge, we witnessed natural disasters that defied imagination, from the horrible destruction wrought by the Asian tsunami and South Asian earthquake to the painful images of our own people suffering in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

In the midst of these gut-wrenching tragedies, we were privileged as Airmen to join countless others in saving lives, providing comfort and offering hope. Other stories of heroism shone brightly throughout the turbulent year.

As a result of their Orange Revolution, the people of Ukraine won a victory for democratic principles and the rule of law. The crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery returned to space. And in just a single year, the people of Iraq elected a Transitional National Assembly, ratified a constitution and elected their first permanent government since the toppling of Saddam Hussein. Likewise, the people of Afghanistan inaugurated their first elected parliament in more than three decades.

Of course, we can't forget the brave American service-

men and women who made these monumental events possible.

As it was with the rest of the world, 2005 was a landmark year for the First Command. We faced a number of challenges and achieved tremendous success as we fulfilled our mission to develop America's Airmen today for tomorrow. Our recruiters nimbly shifted operations to help the Air Force meet our congressionally mandated end-strength, bringing on 20,000 new enlisted and officer personnel in the process.

In addition to graduating nearly 22,000 enlisted members, we initiated a profound shift in the way we conduct Basic Military Training. BMT resequenced its schedule to mirror the AEF cycle and provide more readiness and combat skills training to our new enlisted Airmen.

Executing the Air Force's largest flying program, 19th Air Force organizations flew nearly 560,000 hours to graduate more than 20,000 aircrew members. We've nearly completed our seamless conversion to the T-6A and the T-38C, and the First Command made it possible for Air Combat Command to declare initial operational capability for the F-22A Raptor.

In the arena of initial and advanced skills training, 2nd Air Force and our technical training units graduated nearly 190,000 students.

Finally, Air University provided military, continuing and academic education to 179,000 graduates via residence and distance learning programs.

Bottom line, the First Command recruited, trained and educated 432,000 Airmen last year. Just for some perspective, think of everyone who attended this year's Rose Bowl — then quadruple that number. That's how many Airmen we developed for our Air Force and the joint warfighter in

2005. We did it while deploying 3,822 AETC Airmen to fight the GWOT. We did it while responding to and recovering from the worst natural disaster in the history of our country.

Looking back, I'm amazed by what we've accomplished. Looking forward, I'm more optimistic than ever. The First Command has a strong strategy for the future. We're going to continue to develop America's Airmen by delivering a highly qualified, expeditionary focused force, by quickly responding to the needs of gaining commanders and by championing the Air Force story. We'll concentrate our talent, energy and resources through programs and initiatives that deliver measurable payback in recruiting, training and educating our force. And we'll continue to strengthen our foundation — our people. By developing and supporting our people, we'll not only accomplish our mission, we'll make AETC the Air Force's "command of choice."

Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice as we continue to deliver unrivaled education and training to the greatest Air and Space Force the world has ever seen. And thank you for your integrity, service and excellence in defending the precious people and values of the United States of America. I can think of no greater calling ... no greater privilege ... no greater reward. This year is going to be great for AETC, the Air Force and the Nation. Marilyn and I hope 2006 is great for you and your family!

Looking for a strike



Pam Wickham

Charles Fiske aims for a strike at the base bowling center. The bowling center offers a no-tap bowling tournament at 7 p.m. Jan. 20. Entry is \$10 and includes bowling and prize fund. Prizes for the best Elvis costume and impersonation will be awarded. Call Ext. 2426.

No matter the size, every piece counts in the AF puzzle

Capt. Julie Wokaty-Kozma
777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

ALI BASE, Iraq — Descending into Baghdad, my C-130 Hercules crew prepares for landing.

The copilot coordinates with air traffic control while the navigator ensures we follow desired ground track to the field. The flight engineer runs checklists and the loadmasters scan for threats. We keep our speed up as long as possible, configure close to the airfield and the plane settles onto the runway.

Through all the maneuvering, coordinating and flying I have a sense of déjà vu — with a twist. I've done all this before, but never with this group of people. It's the same, yet different.

I arrived at Ali Base the last week in December and soon set out on my first Operation Iraqi Freedom mission in more than a year. While it was far from my first time flying in combat, it was my first time flying in combat with this crew.

In fact, it was my first time flying with this crew — ever.

I knew little more about them than their name, rank and crew position. This will change over the duration of the deployment, of course. But one might wonder: What enables a crew of people who haven't flown together before to successfully maneuver an aircraft to accomplish a combat mission?

I believe the answer boils down to the professional integrity of the crewmembers and the support Airmen on the ground. This professional integrity comes from knowing your job, performing your duties to the best of your ability and constantly striving to improve your skills.

I know that each crewmember is trained in specific duties and must be able to perform those duties proficiently. The

training and checklists are standardized. Everybody knows what to expect and what's expected from them, regardless of whether they've flown together or not.

My part of the puzzle (and yours) fits into the overall puzzle: Each Air Force Specialty Code having its own

unique pieces and each AFSC irreplaceable to the total mission.

Professional integrity allows us to trust that others are doing their jobs correctly, and to accept their product as flawless. I count on the professional integrity of maintenance Airmen, intel Airmen and air

“My part of the puzzle (and yours) fits into the overall puzzle: Each Air Force Specialty Code having its own unique pieces and each AFSC irreplaceable to the total mission.”

terminal operations center Airmen in my job — to name a few. Being able to trust in their abilities and integrity saves crucial time in a combat zone. This trust is vital to mission accomplishment.

Professional integrity also involves challenging yourself to stay at the top of your game and never growing complacent. The enemy and their weapons are constantly changing. Every Airman must stay ahead of these changes to win the war. Staying in the books and keeping up to speed on latest tactics, techniques and procedures keeps our skills sharp and up to date.

Knowing that you work hard to be your best at your job and trusting others to do the same, that's the professional integrity that allows us to show up in a combat zone and complete a mission with people we have never worked with. It distinguishes professional warfighters from ordinary citizens.

You are vital to the Air Force mission. Wherever your piece of the puzzle fits, work hard to bring the entire picture together for mission accomplishment.

The future looks bright for BLAZE TEAM

Lt. Col. Timothy Wood
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

During January, many people like to reflect on the past year to see where they've been. Instead, I prefer to look forward to see where we're going. From where I'm sitting as 14th Civil Engineer commander, the future looks bright as we enter a new calendar year.

On Jan. 4, The Daily Grind coffee shop opened for business, complements of All Cities Enterprises — our base Simplified Acquisition Base Engineering Requirements contractor. All Cities is also breaking ground this month on an addition to the women's locker room behind the fitness center. When it's complete this spring, the size of the locker room will have increased by 250 percent with six more showers, four more sinks and commodes, and 72 additional lockers.

By the end of February, you'll also notice new street and traffic signs on Harpe Boulevard and a new sign at the front entrance of the chapel. The new signs will have the same historic feel as the flagpoles and streetlights installed last year. These small improvements continue to help transform the area along Harpe Boulevard into the "Showplace of the South."

In May, the newly transformed graduation center/the-



ater will re-open. In place of the 1960s movie theater, the exterior will have a historic appearance with white columns and a pitched roof; the interior will have a larger lobby, new cooling and heating system, wood floor, cry room and new acoustical walls and ceiling. This project was generously funded by Air Education and Training Command commander Gen. William Looney after his visit to the base in September.

In December, you may have noticed the surveying stakes along Harpe Boulevard. The Army Corps of Engineers is surveying

the site for the new 14th Mission Support Group Complex that will be built directly across the street from the graduation center. The first phase of this facility was inserted into the President's budget by our Mississippi congressmen. The design should be complete this August with groundbreaking in the fall. The building will contain the 14th MSG, 14th Mission Support Squadron, 14th Contracting Squadron, 14th Services Division, 14th Comptroller Squadron, and elements of the 14th Logistics Division. The exterior will have the same southern historic elements of the chapel and graduation center — red brick, white trim, columns and a pitched roof.

Within the next month, renovation work will begin on the lobby of the medical clinic. Many of you probably

wonder why the family practice waiting area feels like you're sitting in a hallway. Well, that's all about to change. The large revolving door will be replaced with two sliding doors and the handicap ramp inside the vestibule will be shifted to one side. This will create an open lobby, separate waiting area and walkway. During the construction period, the front doors will be blocked and a separate entrance will be opened on the east side of the building facing Independence Boulevard.

In addition to these quality-of-life projects, Headquarters AETC has ensured our primary mission is funded. Directly after the April 9 air show, the center runway will be closed for four months in order to completely repair and replace the 12,000-by-300 feet asphalt and concrete surface. This runway is the last of four runways to be refurbished at Columbus AFB within the past four years. Additionally, we are completing two new concrete run-up pads this month for the T-6 aircraft that will begin arriving in the fall. Many other bed down projects for the T-6 aircraft will follow in the simulator building.

This is just a sampling of the on-going projects to be expected throughout the year, but I hope this gives you an idea of the direction we're headed with base improvements. Through the direction of our wing leadership and CE's partnership with the contracting, comptroller and communications squadrons, Columbus AFB is gradually becoming an even better place for all of us to live, work, play and train.

Looking back at CAFB's 2005 achievements

Connie Lisowski
14th Flying Training Wing

Looking back at 2005, the BLAZE TEAM never skipped a beat. We met every challenge, honored top performers, helped the local community and hosted numerous events while conducting pilot training.

As base personnel returned to work in January 2005, they were greeted at the gates by SecTek DynCorp contract security employees, responsible for providing home station security while military troops are deployed. Other than the new uniform, the transition was seamless.

In preparation for the Operational Readiness Inspection, units completed checklists, cleaned their work areas, participated in numerous exercises and eagerly awaited the arrival of the inspection team. After 10 days of grueling inspections and testing our wing readiness, team Columbus received an overall "Excellent" rating. The 14th Flying Training Wing commander, Col. Stephen Wilson, summed it up by stating, "BLAZE TEAM—you rock!" As if the pressure of the ORI wasn't enough, the

base was on "pins and needles" waiting for the preliminary Base Realignment and Closure results. Whew! Columbus survived the cut and was recommended to gain the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals training mission.

Columbus graduated 330 of the world's best pilots and flew 59,858 sorties. Students from Bulgaria, Tunisia, Nigeria, Slovakia, Japan and Italy also received their pilot wings and returned home with a better understanding of the American way of life. In November, the wing celebrated the graduation of its 10,000th pilot.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita swept through the area as a vengeance. The coast was virtually destroyed but Columbus was spared and only received moderate damage. The 620th Air Expeditionary Squadron from the Air Force Space Command arrived on base with 83 personnel and eight UH-1N helicopters to assist with relief efforts. They flew missions from Columbus to the gulf coast, executed two medical evacuations, and delivered more than 52,000 pounds of goods to the hurricane survivors during their short stay.

In addition to day-to-day activities, the base supported local programs such as Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity and Day to Care reinforcing our bond with the local community.

In May, the base and local community gathered for the ribbon cutting of the new Highway 45 static display and sign. The project was funded by contributions of money and services from local businesses and individuals.

"Up with the new, down with the old" describes our air traffic control tower. The new, state-of-the-art tower opened in early September, and the old tower was demolished in late October. Former 14th Wing commander, Maj. Gen. Teresa Marne Peterson, assisted with the ribbon cutting.

Many base units and individuals were recognized for outstanding performance by receiving base, AETC and Air Force awards. To name a few, Radar Approach Control Center won the best facility in Air Education and Training Command and Air Force, Security Forces took the best small Security Forces Squadron in AETC, Contracts received six of seven AETC awards, the med group won eight

AETC awards, and the 37th Flying Training Squadron won the top Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training squadron in the command. In addition, the wing received notification that it had won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for 2004.

Special events such as career day, pilot for a day, retiree appreciation day, and Operation Air Force kept the BLAZE all busy. The base sponsored Air Force soccer team tryouts resulted in 2nd Lts. Thomas Clark and Paul Gagliardi earning a spot on the AF soccer team. During the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, Maj. William Burchett's name was added to the memorial wall. About, 400 people attended the Air Force Ball at the Trotter Convention Center to celebrate the Air Force's 58th birthday in September. It was a first-class event, enjoyed by all.

We also need to remember the men and women who have and will continue to face danger — supporting the Global War on Terrorism to preserve the freedoms all Americans enjoy.



Photos by Senior Airman John Parie

More than 200 BLAZE TEAM members attended the Battlestar Galactica Season 2 premiere Jan. 5 at the Columbus Club. Battlestar Galactica is a remake of the 1970s television series. The theme of the night was "Fuel the Imagination."

Battlestar Galactica docks for sneak-peek at Columbus AFB

Senior Airman John Parie
14th Flying Training Wing

The Sci-Fi Channel's mantra "Fuel the Imagination" was the theme of the night, as Battlestar Galactica fans invaded the Columbus Club Jan. 5 for a celebrity-style sneak preview.

The Season 2 premiere episode of Battlestar Galactica was shown a day early to approximately 200 eager BLAZE TEAM members.

"This is the first time we have done a showing like this at a military base," said Michael Pilon, an NBC Universal manager of affiliate promotion.

"I think this a great opportunity to show our support to these men and women, and the show is a perfect match with its flight and space ties."

"We tend to do these premieres at space or science museums," Mr. Pilon said. "But I feel very fortunate to be able to bring this to the base."

Battlestar Galactica is a remake of the 1970s television series, and with revamped characters minus the 70s hair, the show has now captured the attention of a younger generation.

"I had a great time at the showing," said Senior Airman Tabitha Diaz, 14th Flying Training Wing Safety Office. "Even though I was seated toward the back, I had a great

view of the screen and the sound was terrific."

The preview was filled with giveaways and souvenirs for the crowd.

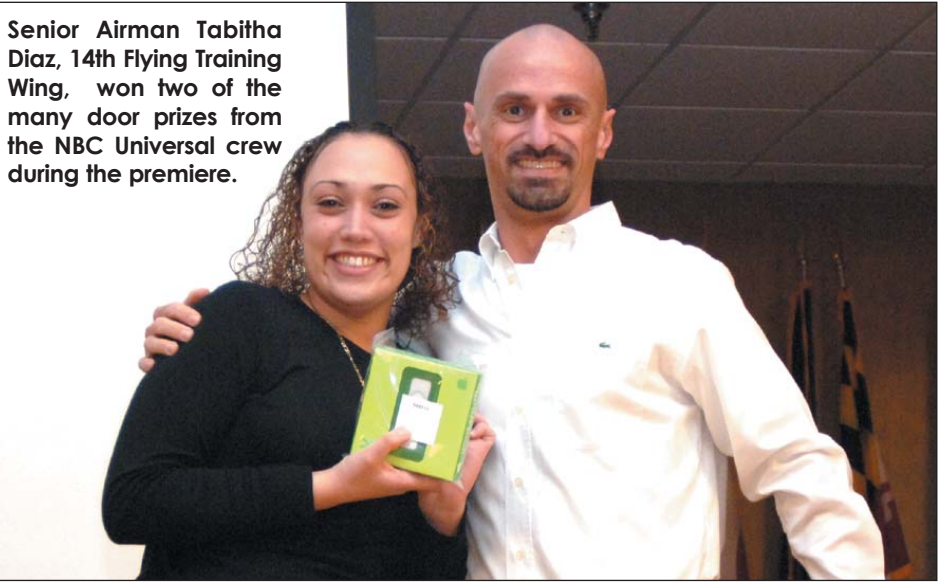
"I loved the free popcorn, drinks and candy that were donated by the commissary; it really gave the night a big premiere feel," Airman Diaz said. "The best part of the night was when my 7-year-old daughter and I both won prizes during intermission."

The excitement traveled to the top of Columbus' chain of command.

"It was an incredible event," said Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander. "NBC Universal and Cable One put together an outstanding package for the Blaze Team members and their families."

"The crowd was very appreciative of the whole event. It's not often that a small Air Force training base gets a Hollywood-style premiere brought to them. Cable One and the 14th Communication Squadron did a great job of converting our club into a home theater since our base theater is currently under renovation," Colonel Wilson said.

While the Columbus team might not be producing space pilots ... yet, they left the premiere with a glimpse of what the future might hold for the next generation of pioneers.



Senior Airman Tabitha Diaz, 14th Flying Training Wing, won two of the many door prizes from the NBC Universal crew during the premiere.